Mountain Weather Forecast

Northwest Highlands

Including Sutherland, Ben Wyvis, Wester Ross, The Cuillin, Glen Affric, Glen Shiel and Knoydart
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 20 Oct 2023 until 23:59 on Saturday 21 Oct 2023

Forecast Issued on Thursday 19 Oct 2023 at 17:14 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: Medium for timing of drier, brighter weather for Friday morning/early afternoon. High for unsettled weather over the weekend and early next week, but low for daily detail and extent of rain.

Headline for Friday 20 Oct 2023: Early rain or summit snow, then a colder and brighter afternoon with a few snow showers in the north

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 20 Oct 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
Medium Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Low Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m

Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Sleet	Sleet	Cloudy	Cloudy	Light snow showers	Light snow	Light snow
Precipitation probability							
60%	60%	40%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%

Forecast for Friday 20 Oct 2023

Weather: A cloudy start with some rain and higher summit snow. Drier and brighter weather will gradually spread south through the morning to leave a mainly dry and bright afternoon with one or two snow showers, these chiefly in the north. Parts of the south may not brighten up until early afternoon.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30% in the morning, 80% in the afternoon

Low cloud and visibility: Widely poor in extensive cloud down to 500 to 800 metres at first. Much improved visibility in the afternoon as cloud lifts and breaks to patches above 850 metres, but cloud may shroud the summits across northern Lochaber and Weser Ross until early afternoon.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Friday 20 Oct 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	58/72 E	57/72 E	57/72 E	61/78 E	57/74 E	53/69 E	54/70 E	50/65 E	45/60 E
900	54/67 E	53/68 E	53/69 E	58/75 E	54/72 E	51/67 E	51/67 E	46/62 E	42/57 E
600	39/53 E	39/54 E	40/57 E	44/62 E	42/60 E	39/56 E	37/54 E	33/49 E	30/45 E
300	12/49 E	13/50 E	14/51 E	17/56 E	17/53 E	17/50 E	15/49 E	13/45 E	13/42 E
Glen	28/54 E	27/52 E	28/53 E	30/57 E	28/53 E	27/51 E	24/49 E	18/38 E	19/38 E

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	2/-7	2/-8	1/-9	0/-10	-1/-11	-1/-11	-1/-12	-2/-12	-1/-11
900	3/-5	2/-6	2/-7	1/-9	0/-10	0/-9	-0/-10	-1/-11	-1/-10
600	6/-1	5/-2	4/-3	3/-5	3/-5	3/-5	2/-6	2/-6	2/-5
300	8/5	7/4	7/3	6/1	6/2	6/2	5/0	4/-0	4/0
Glen	11/7	10/6	10/5	9/4	9/4	9/4	7/3	7/3	7/3
Freezing Level*	2500m	2400m	1800m	1100m	900m	800m	700m	700m	800m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Widespread upland severe gales with storm force winds on the summits will lead a risk of being blown over. Combined with a lowering freezing level this will result in severe wind chill. Drenching conditions in any rain at first. Surfaces at height will become icy as it turns colder, and there will also be a risk of flooding on approach roads in the east of the area.

Forecast for Saturday 21 Oct 2023

Weather: Remaining unsettled and cloudy with further periods of rain, this most persistent and heaviest across Caithness and Easter Ross. Some drier spells of weather likely towards the west coast at first. Snow will fall above 600 to 800 metres until mid-afternoon. Remaining windy with strong to gale easterly winds at height, this leading to significant wind chill.

Maximum wind: Easterly 40 to 50 mph, but gusts nearer to 50 to 60 mph on the very highest tops

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20%, best chance along the west coast

Low cloud and visibility: Widely poor visibility in extensive cloud down to 400 to 800 metres, lowest bases in the east of the area. Some occasional breaks in the cloud sheet possible along the west coast at first

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 4 rising to 7 Celsius
At 800m: Plus 1 rising to 4 Celsius
Freezing level: 800 metres rising above summits later in the day

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